



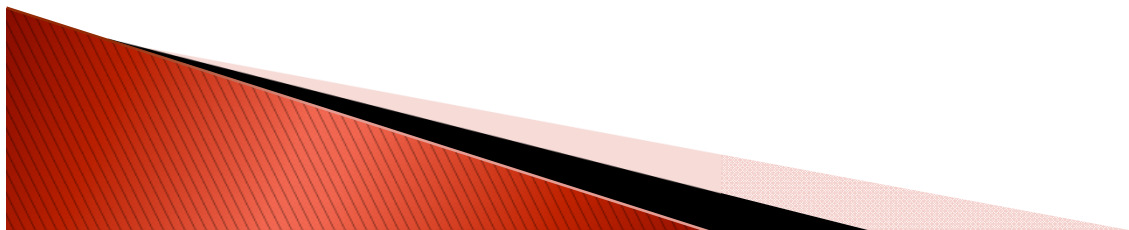
**Challenges/Awareness & Advocacy
activities in Macedonia and the
neighbouring countries
27 Oktober Tirana**

Challenges

- ▶ The biggest challenges in Macedonia and the neighbouring countries
 - **Lack of awareness of the risks of transmission** especially among high risk groups
 - Incidence , Prevalence & Burden for the health system
 - **Lack of access to testing and treatment** once screened, many options for effective treatment exist.
 - Death, Spread of infection & Social Economic Problem (Discrimination and Stigmatization)
 - **Lack of specific registries on viral hepatitis** to keep track of infected patients and transmission threats
 - No statistics , Unknowing if there is a problem & Does not have control on the progression

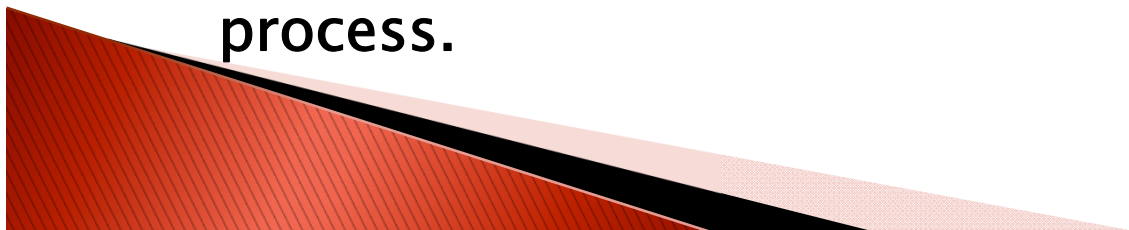
Solution !!!

- **National strategies/plans**, which focus on the 3 areas of improvement, are the main vehicle to address the shortcomings. Promotion of the plan in front the competent authorities
- Individual examples of **best practices** exist in Europe. They need to be consistently implemented across all countries. A list of best practices for application in our country
- **Patient empowerment** is a part of the solution. Patients need to be involved in the design and implementation of national strategies for these to succeed. Permanent dialogue with the Minister of Health.
- Media coverage and close cooperation with physicians and health institutions

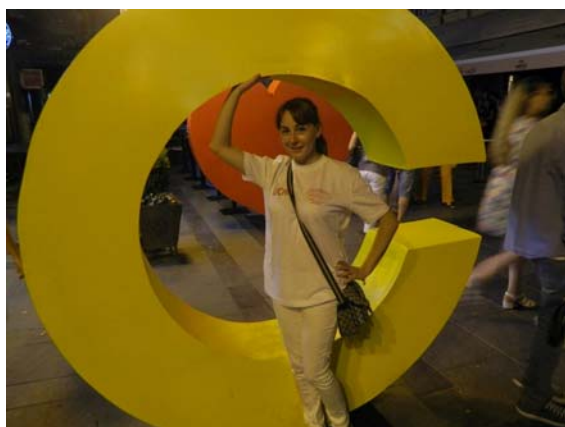


Urgent areas for improvement

- Vaccination of target groups for hepatitis B immunization (persons at risk such as migrants, prisoners and sex workers..) remains insufficient.
- Public awareness and awareness in special risk groups (migrants, prisoners, MSM, sex workers, drug users.....).
- Improvement in the prison setting: needle exchange programs, free available condom distribution, substitution therapies, “bleach”/disinfections in prison.
- Systematic testing in high risk groups such as: IDUs (HBV), MSM, hemophiliacs (HBV), migrants.....
- Involvement of patient organizations in health decision process.



Advocacy & Awareness !!!



Advocacy & Awareness in partnership with other patient organizations

Hepar centar Bitola is one of the founders of the Alliance of Patients' Organizations in RM we unify the voice of patients. This Alliance promoted the 1 st. declaration “Continue my life” through this declaration we invite all citizens to support the initiative for struggle against all types of cancer including HCC!!! which is a direct consequence of Hepatitis, member of Hepar Centar is vice president of alliance



Advocacy and Lobbying before the health institutions

Working meeting with the directors of the Health Insurance Fund
Negotiations for National Strategy, Register of patients and implementation of modern innovative therapy !!!

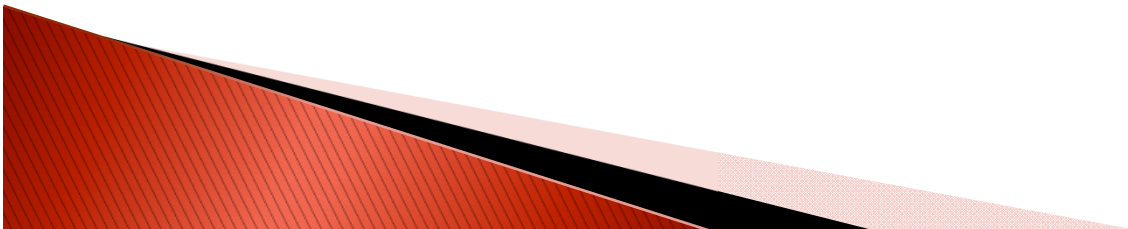
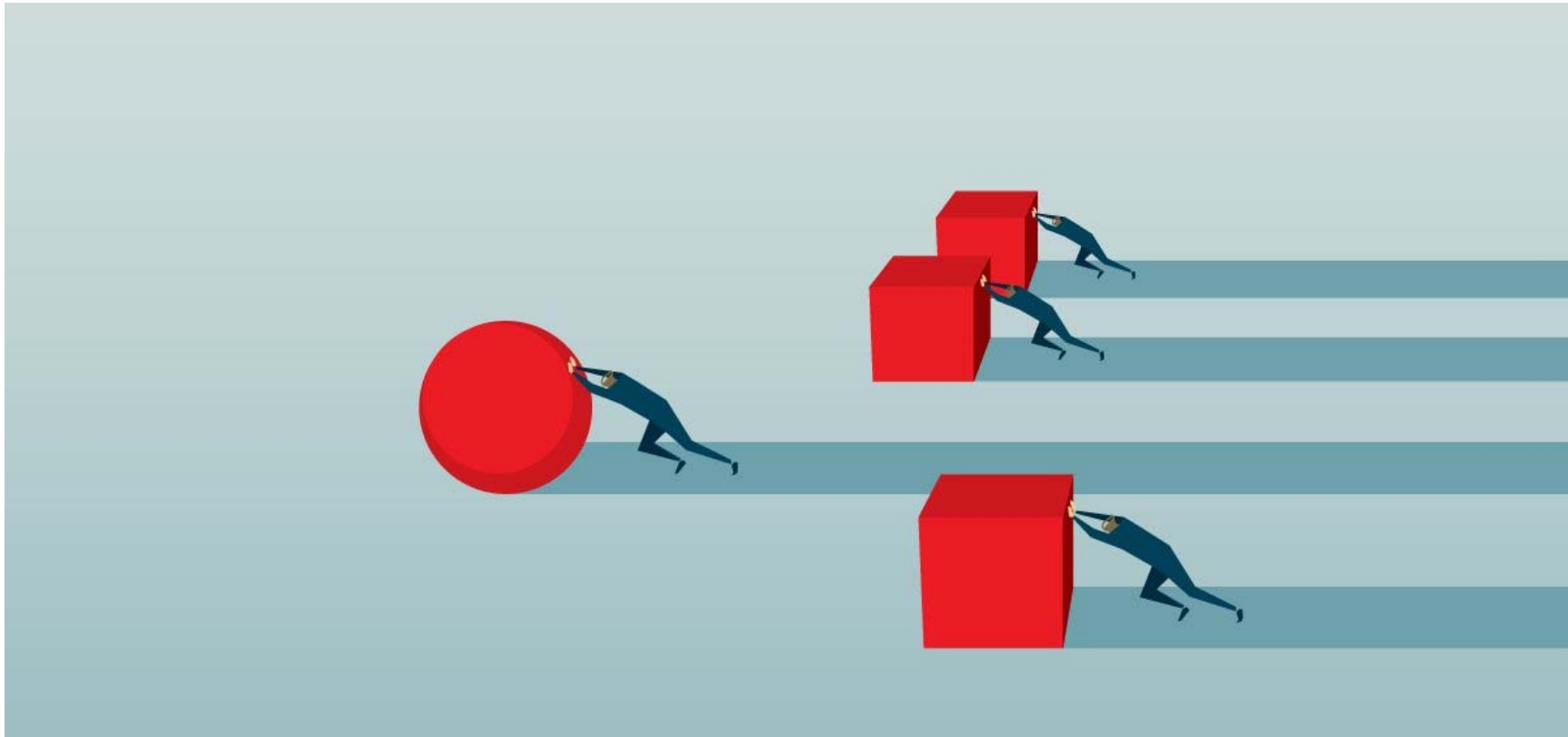


Regional cooperation

Implementation of projects "Hep Free Badge" Hepatitis and the treatments in cosmetics, a regional project between Hepar Centar Bitola(Macedonia) and Hronos Belgrade (Serbia) this project encountered fierce interest among beauty saloons and students



Open Minds Changing Lives!!!





THANKS FOR
YOUR ATTENTION
AND
ANY
QUESTIONS?

